

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RATEPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2042) to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units before requiring compliance with such rule, and to allow States to protect households and businesses from significant adverse effects on electricity ratepayers or reliability:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation which would significantly exacerbate climate change by gutting the President's plan to cut carbon emissions from power plants.

My home state of California is currently experiencing the worst drought in its history, and scientists say it is made more severe because of the warming climate in California. High temperatures have caused record low levels of mountain snowpack and water evaporation in reservoirs, rivers, and soil. This means mandatory water cuts, fallowed fields, and higher risk of wildfires as we move into the heart of the dry season. With continued increases in global temperatures due to carbon emissions, droughts like California's will become even more common across the country.

These extreme drought and wildfire conditions are not unique to California. States across the west including Oklahoma, Nevada, Utah, and Oregon are experiencing "extreme" or "exceptional" drought conditions, according to the USDA. This is a crisis across the West and scientists tell us that it will be more common as man-made carbon emissions continue to warm the planet.

The costs of failing to address climate change grow with every year that we fail to take action. In 2012 alone, climate-related disasters including drought, wildfires, and severe weather including Hurricane Sandy, cost the economy over \$100 billion. That works out to a \$300 tax on every American, and it will continue to increase as severe weather becomes more common and sea levels continue to rise. On top of those disasters, the White House Council on Economic Advisers calculated that failing to meet our climate goals will cost the U.S. \$150 billion per year in reduced economic output, and each decade of ignoring climate change increases the costs of mitigation by 40 percent.

In the absence of Congressional action to address climate change, the Administration is taking strong action which I support. But the bill before us today would allow the Clean Power Plan to be blocked indefinitely and would set a dangerous precedent of allowing states to opt out of national air quality standards. The Supreme Court has upheld the authority of the EPA to regulate carbon emis-

sions on three separate occasions since 2007, yet this bill would allow lawsuits to permanently delay the Clean Power Plan. The bill also removes the federal backstop that has made the Clean Air Act one of the most successful environmental laws in our nation's history, cutting harmful air pollution by 90 percent since its passage in 1970.

Under the premise of protecting ratepayers, who will actually see their bills go down under the Clean Power Plan, this legislation is a major step backward for our country's efforts to fight climate change.

I urge the rejection of this legislation.

HONORING MR. EDWARD LEYDEN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Edward Leyden for his 33 years of outstanding service to Bishop Lynch High School and his community.

Mr. Leyden was hired in 1982 as the school's first lay president during a time of transition and uncertainty with a struggling school enrollment. Mr. Leyden immediately began working to make the school a better place, and he hasn't stopped since.

Thanks to Mr. Leyden's years of hard work and dedication, the school's student population has more than doubled in size and the campus has undergone numerous expansion and improvement projects. Shortly after Mr. Leyden's arrival, the school received the first of two National Blue Ribbon Awards—an honor given by the U.S. Department of Education to recognize schools of exemplary academic achievement. While he points to the prestigious award for the school's success, many believe the credit goes to Mr. Leyden's leadership and open door policy.

Under Mr. Leyden's leadership, the school—once primarily attended by East Dallas pupils—now has students from all parts of the city—from Frisco to Plano and Oak Cliff to Northwest Dallas. A performing arts center was built, science wing, arts and athletics complex, and other renovation projects all have come to completion thanks to Mr. Leyden's vision and dedication to making Bishop Lynch an exemplary place for students to learn.

Mr. Leyden has achieved much in his life. A graduate of St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas and Barry University in Miami, Florida, he was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Dallas in 2006; was the Catholic Foundation Award honoree in 2015; received the Bishop Lynch JFK award for service; is a member of St. Edward's University Board of Trustees and the advisory committee for Ferguson Road Initiative. He has been in Catholic education for more than 50 years and has presided over 33 graduation ceremonies, but if you ask Mr. Leyden what he considers his greatest accom-

plishment, he will say that he is leaving the school a better place than he found it.

This month, Mr. Leyden will retire from his career in education. While his time as an educator has come to an end, the results of his hard work will no doubt continue to be seen for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Mr. Edward Leyden for his devotion to education and for helping to shape a brighter future for our community and our country.

RATEPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2042) to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units before requiring compliance with such rule, and to allow States to protect households and businesses from significant adverse effects on electricity ratepayers or reliability:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this attempt to weaken our first real shot at reducing the harmful carbon pollution that is contributing to global climate change and endangering our communities.

Last month was the hottest May on record. Last year was the hottest year. We've already seen extreme weather events across the globe—from unprecedented flooding in Texas to deadly drought in India. This is not a coincidence. It is not a fluke. It is a real trend identified by ninety-seven percent of climate scientists worldwide. And it requires our urgent action to protect our constituents and our environment.

It is past time. And when skeptics in this Congress refused to acknowledge reality and refused to take any steps to prevent disaster, the President used his authority under the Clean Air Act to reduce carbon emissions, which are a leading contributor to climate change. His proposed Clean Power Plan is a flexible framework for states to cut carbon pollution from power plants for the first time. It's a plan that sets goals, provides options, and lets states figure out what works best for them.

But today we are considering a bill that would undermine the very structure of the Clean Air Act. Currently, when states refuse or fail to fulfill their obligations to reduce pollution under the Clean Air Act, the federal government has the obligation to step in to put forward a plan that would meet the law's requirements. This federal backstop is a critical part of our nation's environmental laws. Today's legislation would allow states to "opt out" of a federal plan, giving them the authority to ignore their responsibility to comply with the rule

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